

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 03742 040636Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----090790 050120Z /14

R 031436Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6256
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USNATO
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN, GE
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG
CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN
SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3742

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MILITARY ADDEES TREAT AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

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USNMR FOR POLAD

FOR WASHINGTON LIAISON GROUP

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: AEMR, MILI, MPOL, PORS, XG, XF, GW, NO

SUBJ: NEGOTIATION OF TRANSIT/SAFEHAVE AGREEMENTS TO FACILITATE

EMERGENCY EVACUATION (E&E) FROM GERMANY

REF BONN 13875

1. WE HAVE CONSIDERED THE SUGGESTION MADE REFTEL THAT THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE APPROACHED WITH A PROPOSAL FOR NEGOTIATING AN AGREEMENT OR UNDERSTANDING TO COVER THE RECEPTION OF US EVACUEES FROM THE FRG FOR SAFEHAVEN OR TRANSIT. IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT THE USG, AS BONN NOTES, NEEDS TO BE ABLE TO SHOW THAT IT HAS DONE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PREPARE TO SAFEGUARD THE LIVES OF US CITIZEN NONCOMBATANTS IN GERMANY AND ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE.

2. OUR GUESS IS THAT THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD PROBABLY BE SYMPATHETIC TO SUCH A PROPOSAL. HOWEVER, WE OBVIOUSLY WOULD NEED MORE DETAILS BEFORE GIVING OUR FINAL JUDGMENT ON THIS SUBJECT. FOR EXAMPLE, ROUGHLY HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE WE TALKING ABOUT? AT WHAT POINTS OF ENTRY? WHAT WOULD THEIR ULTIMATE DISPOSITION BE? AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, HOW DOES THE AGREEMENT BECOME ACTIVATED (E.E., IS IT ONLY IN THE EVENT OF ACTUAL WAR OR THE IMMEDIATE THREAT OF WAR OR WOULD IT ALSO INCLUDE LIMITED CRISES AND LIMITED GROUPS, FOR INSTANCE, FROM BERLIN?)

3. WE AGREE WITH LONDON'S OBSERVATION THAT THE PROBLEM MUST BE SEEN IN A BROAD, POLITICAL CONTEXT, SINCE IT SEEMS CLEAR TO US THAT THE QUESTION WILL ARISE: WHY AFTER 30 YEARS HAVE CONFIDENTIAL

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WE NOW STARTED THIS PROCESS? IS THERE A HIDDEN MEANING IN IT? IN OUR VIEW IT MAY BE NAIVE TO ASSUME THAT WE COULD CONDUCT SUCH BROAD-RANGING AND MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS IN SECRECY. WE SHOULD, IF WE DECIDE TO EMBARK ON THE PROJECT, ASSUME THAT IT WILL BECOME PUBLIC AND THEREFORE WE AND OUR ALLIES NEED TO KNOW HOW WE WILL DEAL WITH THE ISSUE PUBLICLY WITHOUT BECOMING INVOLVED IN A WIDE PUBLIC DEBATE ABOUT THE CREDIBILITY OF THE AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO THE DEFENSE OF EUROPE.

4. FINALLY, WE WOULD LIKE TO ENDORSE LONDON'S SUGGESTION THAT IF A DECISION IS MADE TO GO AHEAD WITH THIS PROJECT, WE TRY TO USE EXISTING NATO ORGANS AS THE FOCUS FOR OUR CONSULTATIONS, COMPLEMENTED BY BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS IN THE RELEVANT CAPITALS. LERNER

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